

What is claimed is:

1. An image processing apparatus for processing plural pages of a job to be given to an output device, the image processing apparatus comprising:

a decision controller for deciding whether plural pages of image data included in the job are data within a color reproduction range of the output device or not; and

10 a color compressing controller for performing a color compression process uniformly to all of the plural pages of image data in accordance with the decision of the decision controller so as to supply the processed data to the output device.

2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the decision controller performs the decision for each of 15 the plural pages, and the color compressing controller determines a parameter to be used for the color compression by integrating the decision result of the decision controller about the all pages.

20 3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the decision controller performs the decision for each of the sections of a color space, and the compressing controller performs the color compression for each of the sections.

25 4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the decision controller performs the decision for each of the sections of a color space, and the compressing controller performs the color compression for each of the sections.

30 5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the output device is a printer for printing an image in accordance with the image data, and the image processing apparatus is built in the printer.

6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image data are generated by an image reader, and the image processing apparatus is built in the image reader.

7. An image processing method for processing plural pages of a job to be given to an output device, the method comprising:

a decision step of deciding whether plural pages of image data included in the job are data within a color reproduction range of the output device or not; and

10 a color compression step of performing a color compression process uniformly to all of the plural pages of image data in accordance with a decision in the decision step so as to supply the processed data to the output device.

8. The image processing method according to claim 7, 15 wherein the decision step includes a page decision step of deciding whether the image data of each page are data within a color reproduction range of the output device or not and a step of repeating the page decision step over all of the pages, and the color compression step includes a determining step of 20 determining a parameter to be used for the color compression by integrating the decision result in the decision step about the all pages and a step of performing the color compression uniformly to all pages using the parameter that was determined in the determining step.

25 9. The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein the decision is performed in the decision step for each of the sections of the color space, and the color compression is performed in the compression step for each of the sections.

10. The image processing method according to claim 7, 30 wherein the decision is performed in the decision step for each

of the sections of the color space, and the color compression is performed in the compression step for each of the sections.